

a.) Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend the specification at page 2, lines 4-5 to read as follows.

For example, Japanese Patent Publication (Laid-open) 1 (1989)-298395-A
(U.S. Patent No. 4,952,023) to Bradshaw, et al. has disclosed:

Please amend the paragraph at page 2, lines 25-26 to read as follows.

Japanese Patent Publication (Laid-open) 2 (1990)-285301-A (U.S. Patent
No. 5,122,902) to Benson, et al. also has disclosed:

Please amend the paragraphs starting at page 3, line 19 and ending at page
4, line 4 to read as follows:

U.S. Patent No. 5,387,458 to ~~Pavalka, et al.~~ Pavelka, et al. has disclosed
fluorescent retroreflective sheetings having distinct color tone, comprising a screen layer
which is substantially transparent to visible light and absorbs ultraviolet light; and a
triangular-pyramidal cube-corner retroreflective element layer to which a thioindigoid,
thioxanthene, benzoxazole coumarine or perylene imide dye has been added.

U.S. Patent 5,605,761 to Burns, et al. discloses a fluorescent retroreflective
sheeting having distinct color tone, into whose triangular-pyramidal cube-corner
retroreflective layer a ~~thioxanthene~~, thioxanthone, perylene imide or thioindigoid
fluorescent coloring dye and a hindered amine light stabilizer are added.

Furthermore, U.S. Patent 5,672,643 to Burns, et al. discloses a fluorescent
retroreflective sheeting having a color tone within a specific range, in which the reflective
element layer in a cube-corner retroreflective sheeting contains, in combination, a perylene
imide fluorescent coloring agent having a specific structure and a specific fluorescent
coloring agent ~~selected from~~ among Lumogen F Yellow 083, CI Solvent Yellow 160:1, CI

Solvent Green 4, CI Pigment Yellow 101, CI Solvent Yellow 131, CI Solvent Yellow 98, Oraset Yellow 8GF, CI Solvent Green 5 and Golden Yellow D-304.

Please amend the paragraph at page 9, lines 28-33 to read as follows.

Use of triangular-pyramidal cube-corner elements which are disclosed in Japanese Patent 2954709 (U.S. Patent No. 6,083,607) and Japanese Patent Publication (Laid-open) 11 (1999)-149006-A (U.S. Patent No. 6,685,323) to Mimura, et al. and in which one of V-formed grooves forming the elements is cut more deeply or shallowly ~~cut~~ than the other grooves, is preferred for achieving excellent entrance angularity.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 10, line 35 and ending at page 11, line 7 to read as follows.

Such elements are more fully described in ~~Japanese Patent Application~~ 2001-241964 WO 03/014779 (US 2005/0018292 A1) to Mimura, et al. In addition to ~~Here~~ the foregoing description ~~is given by way of an explanation of its content. Said, the~~ element ~~exhibits~~ is said to provide excellent entrance angularity over the tile angle of its optical axes ranging 0.5 to 20°, and is preferred because its use allows easy confirmation of presence of the sign with the light source of its head lamp, even when the internal illumination is stopped due to such troubles as power failure.

Please amend the paragraph at page 14, lines 2-10 to read as follows.

Most advantageously, for the retroreflective layers according to the invention, benzimidazole coumarin fluorescent dyes, benzopyran fluorescent dyes, diketopyrrolopyrrole dyes and coumarin fluorescent dyes can be used either singly or in combination of at least two. They may also be used in combination with other fluorescent

dyes or other non-fluorescent dyes or pigments. A detailed description of these suitable dyes is presented in Mimura, et al.'s Japanese Patent Publication (Laid-~~Open-open~~) 2001-296413-A (US 2003/0100637 A1), ~~and here above descriptions shall serve as an~~ explanation.

Please amend the paragraphs at page 14, lines 17-29 to read as follows.

Also those thioindigoid, thioxanthene, benzoxazole coumarin or perylene imide dyes which are disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,387,458 to ~~Pavalka~~ Pavelka can be used.

Likewise, thioxanthone, perylene imide or thioindigoid fluorescent coloring agents which are disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,605,761 to Burns, et al also are usable.

Furthermore, perylene imide fluorescent coloring agent of specific composition in combination with specific fluorescent coloring agent selected from Lumogen F Yellow 083, CI Solvent Yellow 160:1, CI Solvent Green 4, CI Pigment Yellow 101, CI Solvent Yellow 131, CI Solvent Yellow 98, Oraset Yellow 8GF, CI Solvent Green 5 and Golden Yellow D-304 as disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,672,643 to Burns, et al. may also be used.

Please amend the paragraph at page 18, lines 1-6 to read as follows.

Fig. 10 is a plan view of a ~~corner-cube~~ cube-corner type retroreflective element having three sets of paired optical axes, which is an embodiment of prismatic retroreflective element based on the principle of total internal reflection as shown in ~~Japanese Patent Application 2001-241964~~ WO 03/014779 (US 2005/0018292 A1) by Mimura, et al. and which can be used in the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph at page 21, lines 27-31 to read as follows.

Fig. 10 shows a plan view of a corner-cube retroreflective element having three pairs of optical axes, which is an embodiment of the prismatic retroreflective elements according to the principle of total internal reflection, as disclosed in ~~Japanese Patent Application 2001-241964~~ WO 03/014779 (US 2005/0018292 A1).